

THE STANDARD

THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY HERITAGE PARK



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FOUR WAY TEST

In all things we think, say or do

1. Is it the TRUTH ?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



Meeting Highlights

The Willow Park Golf & Country Club is the venue for today's meeting, which is unique in many respects: (1) it is a very rare evening meeting; (2) spouses of Club members are encouraged to attend, as it is the first Club Social of the current year; (3) it is the first of, hopefully, more joint meetings with the Rotary Club of



The Club Presidents

Calgary Fish Creek; and (4) it is our Club's annual commemoration of Remembrance Day.

The social aspect of the meeting commenced at 6 p.m., with a very informal cocktail hour in the lobby of WPG&CC. The Calgary Poppy Fund supplied a white cross as the centre-piece for a table of war era memorabilia and Club members were encouraged to bring along souvenirs and mementos from home. It is very comforting to see so many on dis-

Guest Speaker: Colonel (ret) Cliff Black

Cliff, a native of St. John, NB, was born in January 1917, receiving his primary and high school education there as well. In June 1940, he joined the RCAF and was trained as a pilot. Cliff's first posting was to Pat Bay, BC, with the 120 Bomber Reconnaissance Squadron for long range patrols out of Coal Harbour, following the attack on Pearl Harbour.

Overseas in 1944, Cliff completed a tour of operations on 419 and 426 Squadrons in Bomber Command. He was selected to command the First Canadian Bomber Squadron scheduled to operate in the war against Japan, and returned to Canada in June 1945 to train and organize the Squadron.

Over the next 23 years, Cliff had a series of postings in both Canada and the U.S., culminating with his 1964 appointment as Deputy NORAD Commander of the 28th Air

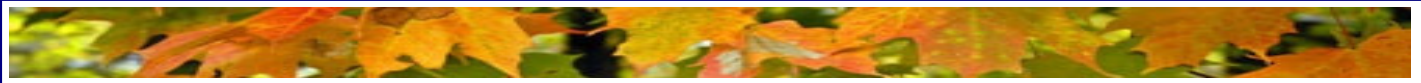


Colonel (ret) Cliff Black accepting a cheque for the veteran's food bank.

Inside this issue:

Meeting Highlights 1-3

Guest Speaker: 1, 2



play; the table is completely covered by the time all guests have arrived. Also comforting is to see that, by the time the dinner bell was sounded, everyone was wearing poppies, thanks again to the Calgary Poppy Fund for providing a supply that could be purchased by donation (\$57 in all).

Contrary to our Club's typical breakfast buffet, tonight's meal was table-served by the wonderful staff at WPG&CC, under the watchful eye of Food & Beverage Manager, Herb Hardowa. Even General Manager Jon Fisher (a long-standing member of the Rotary Club of Calgary Centennial) was on hand to add that "extra touch" of TLC that makes any event at the Willow Park Golf & Country Club a memorable occasion.

Just after 7 p.m. President Martin's hand-on-hammer-on-bell signalled the beginning of the more formal portion of the meeting. There's just something "special" about singing our country's national anthem to music, and that's what we did tonight. The tempo picks up, and the Canadian flag against the background of an early morning sunrise stirs emotions of pride, freedom and nationhood...and isn't that what Remembrance Day is all about?



Harold Aitkenhead offered a prayer most appropriate for the occasion...thank you for those words of appreciation for all that we have, Harold.

And then dinner was served: the nut-free menu featured Red Leaf Salad (consisting of red leaf lettuce, pickled beets, vine-ripened tomatoes, carrot, shredded cheddar, house-made Italian dressing), Slow Braised Boneless Beef Short Ribs, Organic Mashed Potato, Sautéed Carrots & Asparagus, Pumpkin Cheesecake, and Coffee/Tea.



While dessert was being served, President Martin had some opening remarks, and a few introductions, notably Joan & Art Belick, invited as guests of Rotary Club of Cal-

Colonel (ret) Cliff Black

Division in Great Falls, Montana. Retiring from the RCAF on March 29, 1968, Cliff returned to Calgary and, for the next 14 years, he was General Manager of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

On a personal note, Cliff met his future bride while serving as a Flying Instrument instructor at the RCAF Wartime Station in Yarmouth, NS. Cliff and Sue were married there on March 04, 1943. Cliff says that marrying Sue is the best thing that's ever happened to him, but the meeting part was solely an act of fate or a toss of the coin in that, during wartime, transfers and postings were not within his control.

They are parents to four children: one living in Spokane; two in Calgary and one in Vancouver. These children, in turn, have delivered to Cliff and Sue some 20 grand and great grandchildren. Formerly an avid golfer, Cliff still retains a social membership at the Canyon Meadows Golf & Country Club. He attends weekly meetings of the Southern Alberta Air Crew Association in the Officers' Mess at Mewata Armoury. Other memberships include the RCAF Association; the Aero Space Museum Association of Calgary; and the Military Museums of Calgary, which is a reorganization of the former Museum of the Regiments on Crowchild Trail at 45 Avenue SW, and includes the relocated Naval Museum of Alberta and an Air Force Wing.



Jim Davis, Harold and Christine Aitkenhead, Graham and Holly Drake



Jacqui Brown Presents a plaque from the Puerto Vallarta Club



Raju & Asha Paul, Roger & Pam Prior (from F.C. Club)



Dennis Tillotson, Wayne and Kathy Kartusyn From FC Club



John White (Centennial), Jim Hennessy and Cliff Black



Ida and Al Hardstaff,
Linda Haines

Meeting Notes

gary Heritage Park. Next to say a few words were representatives from both Rotary Clubs who attended Puerto Vallarta. Plaques from the Rotary Club of Puerto Vallarta Sur were presented to each Club President in recognition of the contribution that each Club has made. Both Club Presidents commented on how nice it has been to share in such a worthy project, and using this evening's dinner meeting is a very appropriate way to acknowledge the participation of both Rotary Clubs.

Dispensing with the usual pre-guest speaker antics (Sunshine Report, 50/50 and Sheriff), President Martin called upon Club member Jim Hennessy, himself a former Lieutenant Colonel in the Canadian armed forces, to provide an introduction of our guest speaker. Jim's introduction included a brief biography of Colonel (ret.) Cliff Black, which is attached to the newsletter for the benefit of those unable to attend this evening's dinner meeting.

Without doubt, Cliff is one of the most elegant and distinguished gentlemen ever to have graced our podium. Wearing his war medals proudly and, in his ninety-third year, Cliff walks without assistance or aids; his eyes require a bit of help from a pair of glasses; however, his hearing is 100%...rare for a war veteran in general, and very rare for a pilot. Without notes, his voice clear and unwavering, Cliff shared a few of his wartime experiences...some humorous, some sad, but all straight from the heart.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Cliff received a standing ovation from all 55 in attendance. In thanking Cliff for tonight's appearance, John Radermacher presented Cliff with a \$1,000 cheque from our Club's Community Service budget, payable to Calgary Poppy Fund, the proceeds being applied to continued operation of the Veterans' Food Bank.

Rounding out the evening's formalities, the audience was asked to stand while a short video tribute was presented, including taps and reveille. President Rick Istead of the Rotary Club of Calgary Fish Creek had the honour of closing the meeting with words of appreciation to the Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park for being included in this evening's meeting, and words of optimism about the Puerto Vallarta project, and a sincere hope that the future will hold more opportunities for shared Club meetings.

Including dinner companions, there were 39 from the Heritage Park Club, 11 from Fish Creek, and 5 invited guests...not too shabby for final numbers, given that some who had planned to attend were hit by the flu bug and had to cancel at the last moment, while others, who hadn't couldn't attend, made last-minute arrangements to be on hand, again due to the flu. All said and done, the first Club social of the current Rotary year was a smashing success, giving Club organizers a "green light" for future endeavours.

Next major social event will be the Club's Christmas Social, Friday evening at the Millarville Ranchers' Hall on December 11, 2009...be there or be square. **Meeting adjourned.**



**THE ROTARY CLUB OF CALGARY
HERITAGE PARK**

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**WEAR YOUR
ROTARY PIN**



The Rotary Club of Calgary Heritage Park Announcements

- Nov 13 **Graham Drake** "Ambassadorial Scholarship/Clancy Ellingson" "Classification talk"
- Nov 20 **DG Steve Allen**
- Nov 27 **Bruce MacDonald and Bill Redmond** Rotary Foundation Month—Rotary Flames House